

June was nearly 360,000. If we add to this the sailors and marines, the total is more than 364,000.

GROWTH OF THE TRANSPORT FLEET

The necessity for creating a great transport fleet came just at the time when the world was experiencing its most acute shortage of tonnage. The start was made by chartering a few American merchant steamers and by the 1st of July there

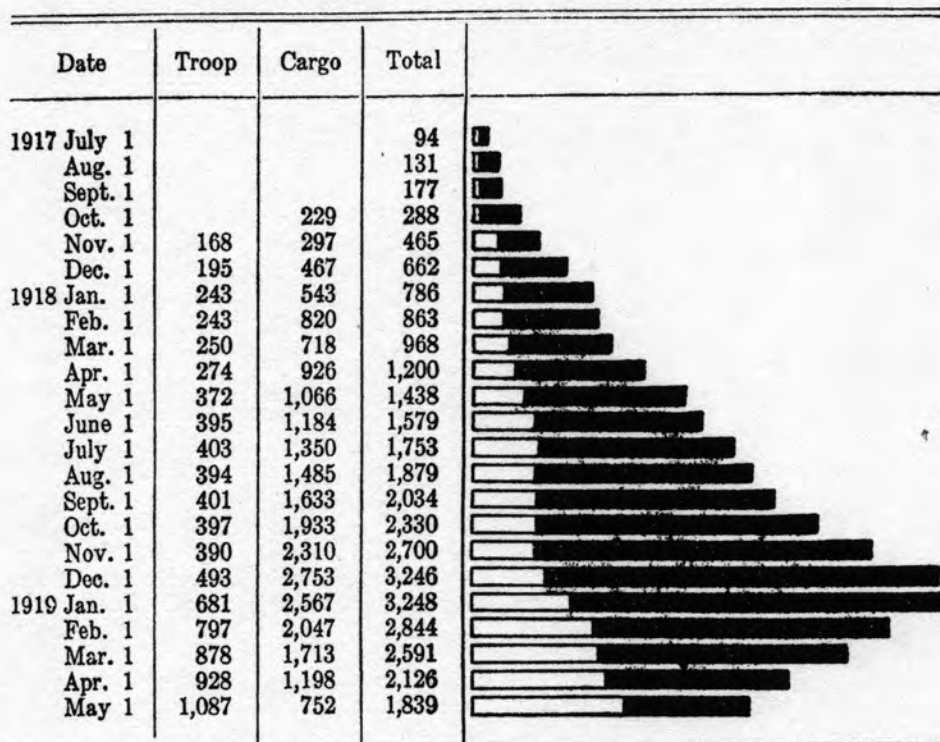


Diagram 15.—The trans-Atlantic fleet in thousands of dead-weight tons.

were in service seven troop ships and six cargo ships with a total dead-weight capacity of 94,000 tons.

Diagram 15 shows how there was developed from these small beginnings a great transport fleet which aggregated by the end of 1918 three and one-quarter million dead-weight tons of shipping. The size of the fleet each month is shown by the figures in the bars of the diagram. It will be noted that each bar is divided in two parts, the portion on the left showing the dead-weight tonnage of the troop ships and that on the right the tonnage of the cargo ships.